with other countries also and if so, details thereof; and

(c) what is the main objective in holding such exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Two US Naval Ships exercised with Indian Naval Ships from 1600 hours on 28th May, 1992 to 1600 hours on 29th May, 1992, terminating off Goa. The Joint Exercises were similar in content to the exercises conducted with other countries in the past and included General Drills; Flyex; Watch Manoeuvres; Jackstay; Close range anti-aircraft firing screening, tactical command etc. besides discussions at professional levels.

(b) No Joint Exercises are scheduled to be held in the near future.

(c) Joint Exercises provide opportunity to promote confidence building, exposure to latest technologies and exchange of views on professional matters.

Disposing of surplus defence land

1809. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to dispose of or otherwise gainfully utilise the vacant lands in cantonments and otherwise in possession of the various department under his Ministry;

(b) if so, how much of such land has been identified; and

(c) what are the precise plans for utilising or disposing the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) There has been a continuing policy that lands rendered permanently surplus to Defence requirements will be disposed of by sale on realisation of market value to various agencies in the following order of preference:—

(1) Other Ministries of Central Government.

(2) State Governments.

(3) Local Bodies.

(4) Educational and Charitable Institutions.

(5) Ex-Servicemen.

In case none of the above agencies respond to the offer, the surplus Defence lands are to be put to sale, by public auction.

In order to meet the shortfall in resources needed for modernisation and for Capital Works for Armed Forces an exercise has been initiated to identify Defence lands which may be permanently surplus to Defence requirements. So far, 190 Camping Grounds involving approximately 4320 acres of land and certain pockets of Defence land have been identified as surplus in certain States. These surplus Camping Grounds have been offered to the State Governments concerned for purchase on payment of market value. While a few State Governments have responded, the others have yet to convey their decision.

Construction of Mahore-Gool-Budhal Road in Jammu and Kashmir

1810. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that construction of 117 km Mahore-Gool-Budhal Road in Jammu and Kashmir has been taken over by the Defence Department and if so, when;

(b) whether it is also a fact that surfacing of the road has only been done but bridges culverts etc. have not been constructed;

(c) what is the amount of expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) by when the said road is going to become operational?